REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-12 are currently amended. No new matter is added. It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 3, 2005.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11 were objected to because of informalities. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend these claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend these claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these rejections.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,417,935) in view of *Nishikawa* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,532,811).

The Examiner acknowledged that *Saito* does not disclose that the mechanical controller detects when there is no said printing medium in said printing engine. However, the Examiner stated that *Nishikawa* discloses a detector for detecting "no paper" state when a print command is sent (col. 2, lines 42-47 & col. 4 lines 10-16) and that it would have been obvious to implement the detector of *Nishikawa* into the printing apparatus of *Saito*.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, in part, because the references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest, either individually or in combination, the apparatus and method claimed in the above-identified application.

For example, *Saito* discloses a communication apparatus and communication method which shortens the communication method by combining multiple pages of image data having a short sub-scan length, stored in a memory, into one page of image data for transmission. *Nishikawa* discloses a detector for detecting "no paper" state when a print command is sent (col. 4 lines 10-16). In view of this, even if one were to combine the cited references, the combination would merely teach a communication apparatus and method having control detection for detecting absence of paper in the printer.

One object of the present invention is to provide a printer apparatus and a printer control method that prevents logical-page data from being printed on separate physical pages even when a "Paper Out" error occurs [page 5].

The sheet detectors 38 and 40 [sensors P and F respectively] disclosed in *Nishikawa* do not prevent logical-page data from being printed on separate pages when a "Paper Out" error occurs. Also, the printer disclosed in *Nishikawa* prints in physical-page units, and the printer disclosed in *Saito* is started for logical-page units and performs printing in logical-page lengths. Therefore, even if one were to combine the cited references, the combination would merely result in "Paper Out" errors that are detected in logical-page length units. Such detection does not prevent logical data from being printed on separate physical pages when paper is added to the printer.

Because neither *Saito* nor *Nishikawa* teach, suggest or even hint at such features of the above-identified application, the combination would not result in the claimed invention.

The combination would however suffer the same problems discussed in the Description of the Related Art, at pages 1-4 of the Specification and illustrated in Fig. 11A and Fig. 11B.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejection of claim 1.

As claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, they should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §103 rejection by nature of their dependency.

Method claim 7 distinguishes from the cited art for the reasons explained above with respect to apparatus claim 1. As claims 8-12 depend from claim 7, they should also be allowable by nature of their dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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